

NOTES FROM THE:

Financial Information Systems Program Office

by Mr Steve Rosengarten



The Financial Information Systems Program Office (FN SPO) develops and sustains budget and financial related systems for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service—Denver Center (DFAS-DE), Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), and Air Force. This issue focuses on one of our older systems.

Did you know that the United States Air Force (USAF) has depot repair cost and condemnation costs of major Air Force aircraft, missiles, and engines all the way back to 1975?

Weapon System Cost Retrieval System (WSCRS). The Air Force Data System Designator for the system is H036C. WSCRS has been around the Headquarters AFMC community for many years. It was originally developed back in the mid '70s and processed on a UNIVAC computer. As technology changed, in the early '80s WSCRS was rehosted to a Control Data Corporation (CDC) CYBER computer. Then around 1990, as the Air Force moved toward integrating systems onto similar platforms, WSCRS was again rehosted, this time to an AMDAHL platform. In the early '90s, WSCRS was actually reengineered to restructure the code and again take advantage of new technology. WSCRS currently resides on an IBM mainframe. Additionally, several functions, the Interrogation Menu System, the Stock Number Interrogation System, and the system backup to CD ROM are PC based. Plans are to move the system to a client-server environment within the next year or so depending on funding. Did you know that WSCRS evolved from a requirement to accumulate consistent cost data across all weapon systems?

True. Previous to WSCRS, independent cost analyses, source selections, cost estimating relationship (CER) development, and other cost analysis projects required vast amounts of historic weapon system cost data and long lead-times for data collection. The cost data collected was often inconsistent from project to project because of different data sources, different cost definitions (requirements vs. obligations vs. expenditures), and different methods of allocating costs to weapon systems. WSCRS alleviated these problems by providing one consistent source of historic cost information in databases for easy access and timely retrieval. Now, the analyses and decision-making of Air Force, Office of the Secretary of De-

fense (OSD), aerospace contractors, and *think tank* customers rely on WSCRS data.

Did you know that WSCRS cost data was so consistent and accurate that SAF/FM directed the WSCRS cost data be the source for development of the weapon system depot maintenance cost factors for the Air Force?

True. They were published in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 65-503, *Cost and Planning Factors*.

For each fiscal year, WSCRS builds and retains a cost Detail Database and a cost Summary Database. In addition, WSCRS collects weapon system program data, engine utilization data, and engine application data and retains the data in the Weapon System Program Database (WSPD). The WSPD data provides information used for analyzing year-to-year cost fluctuations within a weapon system. In 1994, the Defense Business Operations Fund (DBOF) was established which changed the way that WSCRS looks at historical data from 1994 on.

Did you know that WSCRS has only one user/operator?

True. WSCRS has one user/ operator in HQ AFMC/FMP.

That person responds to requests for WSCRS cost data from either a DoD, or commercial source, or university, or *think tank* customer. They review the request, get approval for the request based on the justification, initiate the request against the WSCRS database, generate the report, and distribute the report to the customer with either same day or overnight turnaround. They also provide guidance to customers on the appropriate application of the WSCRS cost data. Additionally, they maintain the WSCRS Historic Reference Manual. This manual provides an audit trail of all changes to the system that may affect the content or the representation of database historic costs.

Not bad for a system that's been around for 25 plus years!

For additional information on WSCRS see: <http://www.afmc-pub.wpafb.af.mil/HQ-AFMC/FM/WSCRS/index.htm>.

Financial Accounting Comptroller Tools (FACTS). Do you have the FACTS? In September of

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of the loss of the spouse who works at home either through death or disability. This can be a tremendous cost and must be insured against. Don't compound the personal tragedy with a financial tragedy. These are things you need to think about when analyzing your risks.

My purpose in writing this article was to generate some thought about your personal financial plan as part of your overall personal wellness program. If you have a handle on your financial plan, give some thought to those who work for you. Maybe they can benefit from your expertise.



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1998, the SAF/FM chartered an assessment of Air Force and DFAS financial automated systems. The assessment, completed in March 1999, generated a database of information on the functional, technical, and systems integration aspects of all financial and financial feeder systems. The database has gone through several name changes, including Financial Information System Assessment (FISA), JustASK, and ISAG Encyclopedia. The database tool has now been baselined and officially named FACTS. AFMC/FM sponsored the initial development effort and is funding the maintenance cost of the tool. HQ MSG is providing financial management and contract administration support and HQ SSG is responsible for project management.

FACTS is a hyperlinked, web-based management information system. It is designed for a discovery mode of inquiry, much like Internet searching, as opposed to static reports. It provides multiple ways of inquiring about DoD financial information systems. Migration paths of the systems are documented and can be viewed from a hardware, operating system, database, or language perspective, with specific details such as hardware types, database environments, feeder, and receiver systems, etc.

The FACTS customer will primarily be financial personnel who will use the database as a training tool. It will also be used by management as a decision making aid; however, it is available to anyone who has a question about any Air Force automated financial management system. FACTS is now deployed in a maintenance mode and plans are to make it available on the Air Force Portal in the near future. To access FACTS on the Web, the address is: **<http://206.190.171.70>**.

So now you know—you do have the FACTS.

